

We claim:

1. A compound according to formula (V):
$$(Ar-SO_2-)_m-QH-(-SO_2-R_1)_n \quad (V)$$

5 wherein Ar is an aromatic group derived from an aromatic compound;
 wherein Q is C or N;
 wherein each R₁ is independently selected from the group consisting of
aliphatic and aromatic groups, which may or may not be saturated, unsaturated, straight-
chain, branched, cyclic, heteroatomic, polymeric, halogenated, fluorinated or
10 substituted;
 wherein at least one R₁ contains at least one highly acidic group selected from
the group consisting of: sulfonic acid, carboxylic acid and phosphonic acid;
 wherein m is greater than 0;
 wherein n is greater than 0;
15 wherein m + n = 2 when Q is N; and
 wherein m + n = 3 when Q is C.
2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein Q is N, m=1 and n=1.
- 20 3. A compound according to claim 1 wherein at least one R₁ contains at least one
sulfonic acid group.
4. A compound according to claim 1 wherein Ar is derived from an aromatic
polymer.
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5. A compound according to claim 2 wherein Ar is derived from an aromatic
polymer.
6. A compound according to claim 3 wherein Ar is derived from an aromatic
30 polymer.

7. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R₁ comprises an aromatic group according to the formula: -PhY_{5-v}(SO₂H)_v ;

wherein Ph is phenyl;

wherein each Y is independently selected from H, F, Cl and CH₃; and

5 wherein v is 1, 2 or 3.

8. A compound according to claim 5 wherein R₁ comprises an aromatic group according to the formula: -PhY_{5-v}(SO₂H)_v ;

wherein Ph is phenyl;

10 wherein each Y is independently selected from H, F, Cl and CH₃; and

wherein v is 1, 2 or 3.